

This I believe

"It is alright, no one is watching, no one will know about it."

When having this thought, many will compromise and do what they know clearly is wrong. I, however, will stand firmly on my ground, unwavering from my principles and conscience.

Why would I do so? I think everyone must have their own set of principles to believe and follow. For me, I believe in following my conscience, which is, doing what I know is moral.

"Always be an honest person." My father always says that. He will then continue to say, "We must always follow our conscience." That was what I have been taught since I was little. To follow my conscience and be honest in my actions, that is my belief built from childhood.

According to a fable I once read, there should be a "mini policeman" in one's heart. This is the conscience I rely on to guide me through my life virtuously. I recognise it guiding me in many situations - getting the mark I was not supposed to get in an examination, fighting the temptation to litter when there was no rubbish bins in sight - I am often aware of my own conscience pressurising me. "You know what you have to do" it would say silently. There is no need to consider the wrong act. "No one is watching" is never a valid excuse. Following my conscience no matter big or small, that is what I believe in and it drives me to do the right thing.

However, there were times I slip by my principles too. I vividly remember an incident, years ago, when I failed to obey my "mini policeman". It was a trivial incident yet the trigger that started my belief in following my conscience.

I was in Primary 3 then. It was my duty to sweep the classroom that day and my duty-partner was absent from school. Coincidentally, I was going to the theme park in the afternoon. There was no one to watch if I did my duty or not. As you can guess, I ran home as quickly as I could without sweeping the classroom. That was the action I later regretted greatly for. For the rest of the day, I could hear a voice in my mind, screaming, "Naughty girl! Bad girl!". I could not enjoy the theme park no matter how hard I tried. I could not push the voice away, and was tormented by it for the whole afternoon, the night, and the next few days after.

It is through those few occasions that I did not follow my conscience, did the wrong thing, and, after being punished by my own "mini policeman" a number of times, that I gradually built this belief of following my conscience. I sincerely believe that my conscience is capable of telling me the right and the wrong, and that I should follow it at all times. Guided by my conscience, I will be able to always do what I know deep in my heart, is just and moral. This, I believe.